Docket No.: 713-1000 PATENT

REMARKS:

The above-referenced application is amended to remove the multiple dependencies of claims 3, 4, 9 to 15, 18 and 26.

Entry is in order.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

LOWE HAUPTMAN GILMAN & BERNER, LLP

Randy A. Noranbrock

Registration No. 42,940

Customer Number: 22429

1700 Diagonal Road, Suite 310 Alexandria, Virginia 22314 (703) 684-1111 BJH/RAN/eb

Facsimile: (703) 518-5499

Date: January 7, 2004